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thickness not exceeding 0.16 mm; said graft being radially compressible for catheter delivery and returnable to an open tubular configuration of said fixed diameter upon deployment.

REMARKS

The application has been amended. Claims 1,11,17 and 28 have been amended. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Undersigned counsel wishes to thank Examiners Jackson and Willse for the courtesies extended at a recent interview. At that interview, the rejection of claims 1 and 11, in view of U.S. Patent No.: 5,282,847 to Trescony et al. (hereinafter "Trescony") was discussed. It was agreed that the present invention, as set forth in claims 1 and 11, is distinguishable over Trescony in that the present invention shows circumferential crimps, whereas the Trescony reference shows longitudinal crimps. Accordingly, the Examiners agreed that amendments to claims 1 and 11, wherein the crimp pattern is described as being circumferential, would distinguish over Trescony. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the crimp pattern formed thereon includes circumferential crimps. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted, that claims 1 and 11, and the claims which depend therefrom, are patentably distinct over Trescony.

Also at that interview, the rejections of claims 17 and 28, in view of the Trescony reference, were discussed. Undersigned counsel urged that amendments to claims 17 and 28

where the claims define a tubular body of fixed diameter, having a wall thickness not exceeding 0.16 mm, defines patentably over Trescony. It was further pointed out to the Examiners that the Trescony device is designed to have a plurality of longitudinally extending crimps. As viewed in transverse cross-section (noting particularly Figures 3 and 4 of Trescony), the crimp pattern allows the graft to radially pulsate or expand and contract during blood flow. Trescony compensates for its extremely thin graft wall by allowing its tubular wall to expand and contract circumferentially. Absent such ability, the thin wall of Trescony would not be able to accommodate the normal blood pressure. This is explained in the Trescony reference at column 3, lines 14-35. At the highest blood pressure, cross-sectional area of the Trescony graft is increased as a result of the unfolding of the pleats. The Trescony device achieves a larger diameter than the initial diameter at which it was implanted. Thus, in order for Trescony to operate in the body, the diameter thereof cannot be fixed.

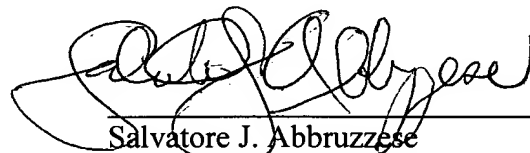
Turning to the claims of the present invention, a thinly woven textile graft is provided where the graft wall does not exceed 0.16 mm. However, unlike the Trescony reference, the graft of the present invention does not provide longitudinal circumferentially spaced crimps which vary the diameter of the graft during blood flow. Rather, claims 17 and 28 specifically require that the graft diameter be fixed. Thus, the fabric wall itself, although thin, is able to accommodate the normal blood flow without pulsation required by Trescony. As may be appreciated, the Trescony device must continuously and alternatively pulsate between a configuration shown in Figure 3 and that shown in Figure 4. This would occur upon normal

blood pulsation caused by the beating of the heart. Such movement of the graft material places undue stress on the graft, reducing the long term patency thereof. The present invention provides a non-pulsating diameter to its graft which is more compatible with long term patency of the graft in the blood vessel. The present invention, as set forth in claims 17 and 28, defines a graft having a fixed diameter and, therefore, is patentably distinguishable over Trescony.

Having overcome the rejections of claims 1 and 11, as well as the rejections of claims 17 and 28 and, in view of the allowance of claims 6-10, it is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1-32 is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions with regard to the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned counsel at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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